

Senate Resolution 302

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th and Murphy of the 27th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 19, 2009, as Victim-Witness Advocate Day in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on February 19, 2009, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of
4 Georgia will sponsor Victim-Witness Advocate Day in Georgia at the capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, legislators are encouraged to join with victim-witness advocates, district
6 attorneys, and solicitors-general from across this state to recognize the important role of
7 victim-witness advocates and to increase awareness of their mission to provide support to
8 victims of all crimes; and

9 WHEREAS, with the enactment of the Georgia Crime Victims' Bill of Rights in 1995,
10 individuals impacted by violent crime are afforded specific services to enable them to take
11 steps toward restoration, and, through the district attorney offices in each of the 49 Georgia
12 judicial circuits and the solicitor-general offices in 25 of the 159 Georgia counties,
13 victim-witness advocates are the only service agencies mandated to serve all crime victims;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, advocates are present and available to guide these individuals through what can
16 be a confusing, complicated judicial process, and victim-witness personnel assist with
17 obtaining compensation through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and appropriate
18 restitution through the courts; and

19 WHEREAS, victim-witness personnel make referrals to professional and other community
20 resources and provide notification of all judicial proceedings; and

21 WHEREAS, each judicial circuit and county has unique needs, resources, and services, and
22 the advocates work to insure the victim's full participation in the judicial process; and

23 WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia's Victim-Witness
24 Advocacy Office provides consultation, training, networking, and professional development
25 to advocate personnel, and they also present the needs and concerns of crime victims to the
26 community, elected officials, agencies, and public policy makers through education,
27 resources, collaboration, and advocacy; and

28 WHEREAS, the Victim-Witness Advocacy Office is committed to unifying this state's
29 advocate personnel in voice, purpose, and vision; providing training and orientation for new
30 advocates and volunteers; providing training to advocates, prosecutors, investigators,
31 community officials, and the public regarding crime victim issues; assisting with
32 collaboration between advocacy agencies; assisting with requested training of law
33 enforcement officers and agencies, including, but not limited to, training on domestic
34 violence, child abuse, elder abuse, criminal process, civil justice, compassion fatigue, and
35 sexual assault; providing up-to-date information through consultation, networking, personal
36 development, and training to prosecution based advocates; and supporting prosecution based
37 advocates as they serve all crime victims in Georgia as mandated by the Crime Victims' Bill
38 of Rights.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 recognize the importance of victim-witness advocates, support their mission to support
41 victims of all crimes, and declare February 19, 2009, as Victim-Witness Advocate Day at the
42 capitol.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of
45 Georgia.